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The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Letter dated 10 February 2000 from the representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

The Governments of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Macedonia and the Republic of Slovenia have taken note of the letter dated 13 December 1999 signed by Ambassador Jovanović of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to the President of the Security Council (S/1999/1245).

Four of the successor States wish to stress that, ever since the dissolution of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, they have always maintained a constructive attitude and willingness to solve the State succession issues to the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia through the negotiations held under the auspices of the international community, on the basis of the equality of all five successor States and other relevant principles and norms of international law. To this end four of the successor States have throughout the negotiations accepted several proposals of the international community aimed at reaching a settlement of the succession issue.

On the other hand, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) has so far maintained an unconstructive attitude. It has been rejecting the equal rights of all five successor States and not accepting the proposals made by Sir Arthur Watts, special negotiator in the framework of the Peace Implementation Council. Furthermore, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) has insisted on the position that it represented the political and legal continuity of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, which has dissolved and ceased to exist, as established, *inter alia*, by relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions and opinions of the Arbitration Commission of the European Union/United Nations Conference on the Former Yugoslavia. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) has thus hindered any possible progress in the negotiations.

In view of the expressed readiness of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to resume the State succession negotiations, which were suspended, and in the hope that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) will show a more

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genuine and more constructive attitude and willingness to reach an agreement within a short period of time, four of the successor States reconfirm their readiness to solve promptly the issue of the States succession to the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, on the basis of the equality of all five successor States. The settlement of the issue of succession to the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia would contribute to political stabilization, economic cooperation and the improvement of relations.

We should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 42.

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Bosnia and Herzegovina

(Signed) Ivan **Šimonović**
Ambassador
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(Signed) Naste **Čalovski**
Ambassador
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(Signed) Samuel **Žbogar**
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